

10/591119

IAP5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 AUG 2006

DESCRIPTION

PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION OF 1,1,1,2-TETRAFLUOROETHANE
AND/OR PENTAFLUOROETHANE AND APPLICATIONS OF THE SAME

5

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a) claiming benefit pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(1) of the filing date of the Provisional Application 60/559,428 filed April 6, 2004, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §111(b).

10

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a process for producing 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane and applications of the same.

15

Background Art

As methods of production of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a or $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$) and pentafluoroethane (HFC-125 or CF_3CHF_2), conventionally the following methods are known.

20

As a method of production of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, for example the method of production by reacting trichloroethylene and hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst is known.

Further, as a method of production of pentafluoroethane, the method of production by reacting tetrachloroethylene and hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst is known. When producing 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and pentafluoroethane by these methods, various impurities are produced as byproducts according to the reaction conditions used. These impurities include unsaturated compounds such as $\text{CF}_2=\text{CClF}$, $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHCl}$, $\text{CHF}=\text{CClF}$, $\text{CClF}=\text{CHCl}$, $\text{CHCl}=\text{CHF}$, $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$, and $\text{CF}_2=\text{CClF}$ and include chlorofluorocarbons such as CCl_2F_2 , CH_2ClF , $\text{CH}_2\text{ClCClF}_2$, CF_3CHCl_2 , and CF_3CClF_2 and hydrofluorocarbons such as CH_2F_2 , CF_3CH_3 , and CHF_2CHF_2 .

25

30

35

Among these impurities, hydrofluorocarbons do not

cause any problem so far as they are small in amount, but it is necessary to reduce the contents of the unsaturated compounds and the chlorofluorocarbons as much as possible. They can be removed to a certain extent by
5 fractional distillation etc. However, it is extremely difficult to remove impurities having boiling points close to those of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and pentafluoroethane to a low enough level that they substantially do not exist by fractional distillation. It
10 is also difficult to remove impurities forming an azeotropic composition and an azeotropic-like composition in the same way as the former. For this reason, various processes have been proposed as the method for solving this problem.

15 For example, a method of purifying unsaturated compounds (mainly $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHCl}$) included as impurities in crude $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ from which hydrogen chloride has been removed to a certain extent by reacting it with hydrogen fluoride as an azeotropic component with $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ in the
20 presence of a fluorination catalyst (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 6-184015) is known. However, this method leaves behind technical problems such as the production of unsaturated compounds by the dehalogenation reaction of the intermediate 2-chloro-1,1,1-
25 trifluoroethane ($\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$) contained in the target $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and the shortened life of the fluorination catalyst.

Disclosure of Invention

The problem to be solved by the present invention is to provide a novel process for production of 1,1,1,2-
30 tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane for solving the problems of the prior art described above and applications for the same.

In consideration with the above circumstances, the inventors engaged in intensive studies so as to develop a
35 process for production of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane which can be industrially worked and which is economical and as a result found out that

the above problem could be solved by using a process for producing high purity 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane by a step of purifying a crude product obtained by reacting trichloroethylene and/or

5 tetrachloroethylene with hydrogen fluoride comprised of a main product including 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane, hydrogen fluoride as an azeotropic component with the main product, and impurity ingredients including at least an unsaturated compound, wherein said

10 purifying step includes a step of bringing a mixture obtained by newly adding hydrogen fluoride into said crude product into contact with a fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase to reducing the content of the unsaturated compound contained in said crude product and

15 a distillation step, and thereby completed the present invention.

Namely, the present invention includes the means of for example the following (1) to (13).

(1) A process for producing high purity 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane by a step of purifying a crude product obtained by reacting trichloroethylene and/or tetrachloroethylene with hydrogen fluoride comprised of a main product including 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane,

20 hydrogen fluoride as an azeotropic component with the main product, and impurity ingredients including at least an unsaturated compound, wherein said purifying step includes a step of bringing a mixture obtained by newly adding hydrogen fluoride into said crude product into

25 contact with a fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase to reducing the content of the unsaturated compound contained in said crude product and a distillation step.

30

(2) A production process as set forth in (1), wherein the content of the hydrogen chloride contained as the impurity in said crude product is 2 mol% or less.

35

(3) A production process as set forth in (1) or (2), wherein the concentration of the 1,1,1,2-

tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane contained in said crude product is 70 mol% or more.

5 (4) A production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (3), wherein said unsaturated compound is at least one compound selected from a group consisting of 1,1-difluoro-2-chloroethylene, 1,2-difluoro-1-chloroethylene, 1-chloro-2-fluoroethylene, 1,1,2-trifluoroethylene, and 1-chloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethylene.

10 (5) A production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (4), wherein said fluorination catalyst includes at least one metal element selected from a group consisting of Cu, Mg, Zn, Pb, V, Bi, Cr, In, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Al.

15 (6) A production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (5), wherein a contact temperature between said mixture and said fluorination catalyst is within a range of from 130 to 280°C.

20 (7) A production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (6), wherein a mixture obtained by newly adding hydrogen fluoride to a crude product comprised of a main product including 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, hydrogen fluoride as an azeotropic component with the main product, and impurity ingredients including at least an
25 unsaturated compound is brought into contact with the fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase to reduce the content of the unsaturated compound contained in said crude product.

30 (8) A production process as set forth in (7), wherein the contact temperature between said mixture and said fluorination catalyst is within a range of from 130 to 200°C.

35 (9) A production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (8), further comprising separating the hydrogen fluoride in said distillation step and recirculating the separated hydrogen fluoride to a step for obtaining said crude product.

(10) A 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane obtained by the

production process as set forth in any one of (1) to (9), wherein a total content of chlorine-containing compounds in said 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane is 2 volppm or less.

5 (11) A process for production of pentafluoroethane and/or hexafluoroethane characterized by reacting the 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane as set forth in (10) and fluorine gas in the presence of a diluting gas.

10 (12) An etching gas comprising pentafluoroethane and/or hexafluoroethane obtained by the production process as set forth in (11).

(13) A cleaning gas comprising pentafluoroethane and/or hexafluoroethane obtained by the production process as set forth in (11).

15 According to the present invention, an industrially advantageous production process for obtaining 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane which can be advantageously utilized as a low temperature refrigerant, an etching gas, or a cleaning gas by reducing the content of unsaturated impurities contained in 1,1,1,2-
20 tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane and applications thereof can be provided.

Best Mode for carrying Out the Invention

Below, a detailed explanation will be given of the present invention.

25 As a process for production of $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$, for example a process for production by reacting trichloroethylene and hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst in two steps is known. Further, as a process for production of CF_3CHF_2 , for example a process for
30 production by reacting tetrachloroethylene and hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst in two steps is known. When producing $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and CF_3CHF_2 by using these processes, even when purifying such as by the generally practiced distillation operation, impurities
35 hard to separate from the target $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and CF_3CHF_2 are contained. As these impurities, there can be mentioned for example the above unsaturated compounds,

chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, etc. It is necessary to remove these impurities as much as possible to obtain a high purity.

5 The process of production of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane of the present invention is a process for producing high purity 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane by the step of purifying a crude product obtained by reacting
10 trichloroethylene and/or tetrachloroethylene with hydrogen fluoride comprised of a main product including 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and/or pentafluoroethane, hydrogen fluoride as an azeotropic component with the main product, and impurity ingredients including at least an unsaturated compound, wherein said purifying step
15 includes a step of bringing a mixture obtained by newly adding hydrogen fluoride into said crude product into contact with a fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase to reducing the content of the unsaturated compound contained in said crude product and a distillation step.

20 It is known that many compounds of hydrofluorocarbons form azeotropic mixtures with hydrogen fluoride. $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and CF_3CHF_2 also form azeotropic mixtures together with hydrogen fluoride. For example, the molar ratio of the azeotropic mixture of $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and hydrogen
25 fluoride is $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ =about 0.12. For example, the above Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 6-184015 discloses a method of bringing a mixture including this azeotropic mixture and an unsaturated impurity such as 1,1-difluoro-2-chloroethylene ($\text{CF}_2=\text{CHCl}$) into contact with
30 a chromium-based catalyst at a temperature of 200 to 380°C to reduce the unsaturated compounds. However, this involved the problem that when the contact temperature became high, the dehalogenation reaction of the 2-chloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane ($\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$) contained in the mixture
35 resulted in 1,1-difluoro-2-chloroethylene being produced as a byproduct, so coking of the catalyst surface proceeded along with that and the catalyst life became

shorter. In the present invention, by newly incorporating hydrogen fluoride into a mixture including a main product including $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and/or CF_3CHF_2 , hydrogen fluoride as the azeotropic component with the main product, and one or
5 more types of unsaturated compounds and bringing this mixture into contact with the fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase state, the advantages are obtained that the content of the unsaturated compounds is reduced without loss of the target product and further the
10 catalyst life can be extended.

The $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ crude product obtained by reacting the trichloroethylene and the hydrogen fluoride, then performing the crude purifying step includes hydrogen fluoride as the azeotropic component, one or more types
15 of unsaturated compounds, and $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ as an intermediate in production of the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$. Usually, the concentration of the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ is about 10 mol% or less, and the concentration of the target $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ is 70 mol% or more. The $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ of the intermediate forms an azeotropic
20 mixture together with the hydrogen fluoride. The molar ratio of the azeotropic mixture is $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ =about 1.0.

Further, the total content of the unsaturated compounds differs according to the catalyst and reaction conditions used, but generally is about 0.4 to 0.9 mol%.
25 As the unsaturated compounds, there can be mentioned 1,1-difluoro-2-chloroethylene, 1,2-difluoro-1-chloroethylene, 1-chloro-2-fluoroethylene, 1,1,2-trifluoroethylene, and 1-chloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethylene. The molar ratio of the azeotropic mixture of the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and the hydrogen
30 fluoride is $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ =about 0.12, therefore the amount of the newly incorporated hydrogen fluoride preferably becomes more than this. This is preferably added so that the molar ratio with the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ becomes $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ =0.3 or more. When the amount of addition of the hydrogen
35 fluoride is increased, the addition reaction of the hydrogen fluoride to the unsaturated compound easily progresses and the reaction temperature can be lowered.

This results in the large advantages such as the suppression of the production of byproducts and the reduction of the loss of the target product and the prolonged life of the catalyst. Further, when the crude product is CF_3CHF_2 , the molar ratio of the azeotropic mixture of the CF_3CHF_2 and the hydrogen fluoride is $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CHF}_2$ =about 0.1, so the hydrogen fluoride to be newly added is preferably added in an amount giving a molar ratio with the CF_3CHF_2 of $\text{HF}/\text{CF}_3\text{CHF}_2$ =0.2 or more. In the process of the present invention, the step of bringing the mixture obtained by newly adding hydrogen fluoride into the crude product into contact with a fluorination catalyst in the vapor phase may comprise mixing the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ and the CF_3CHF_2 alone with hydrogen fluoride to bring the mixture into contact with the fluorination catalyst or may form a mixture with the hydrogen fluoride in a state where two compounds are mixed and bring the mixture into contact with the fluorination catalyst. The method of bringing the mixture into contact with the fluorination catalyst in the state where two compounds are mixed, then distilling off and separating them is preferred. Further, as the method for feeding the hydrogen fluoride to be newly added, any of the complete feeding method and batch feeding method can be selected.

The fluorination catalyst used in the process of the present invention may be any having a catalytic action with respect to a fluorination reaction. As the catalyst, a fluorination catalyst comprised of a metal compound of Group IB, Group IIA, Group IIB, Group IVB, Group VA, Group VB, Group VIA, Group VIIA, and Group VIII of the Periodic Table including at least one type of element selected from the group consisting of Cu, Mg, Zn, Pb, V, Bi, Cr, In, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Al, for example, a bulk catalyst comprised mainly of trivalent chromium oxide or a supported catalyst using alumina, aluminum fluoride, or active carbon as a carrier can be selected. As the method of preparation of the fluorination catalyst, the usual

method can be applied. This can be produced by for example impregnating alumina with a cobalt chloride aqueous solution, drying it, then calcining it in a flow of air. The catalyst prepared in this way is preferably
5 activated by using nitrogen and/or hydrogen fluoride before use for the reaction.

The temperature at which the crude product and the fluorination catalyst are brought into contact is preferably within a range of from 130 to 280°C, more
10 preferably within a range of from 130 to 200°C. When the temperature is lower than 130°C, the reaction rate of the unsaturated compound tends to become slow, while at a temperature higher than 280°C, a tendency of increase of the ratio of the secondary reaction as described above is
15 seen.

The content of the hydrogen chloride contained as an impurity in the crude product is preferably 2 mol% or less. When the content of the hydrogen chloride is larger than 2 mol%, the impurity tends to increase.

20 After bringing the crude product and the fluorination catalyst into contact, preferably the hydrogen fluoride of the azeotropic component and at least part of the newly added hydrogen fluoride are separated in the distillation step, and the separated
25 hydrogen fluoride is recirculated to the step of obtaining the crude product. The $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ can be separated and purified by distillation, therefore high purity $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ including almost no unsaturated compound and chlorine-containing compounds can be obtained with a high
30 yield. The total content of the chlorine-containing compounds can be reduced to 2 volppm or less.

The content of the impurities contained in the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$ can be measured by the TCD method or the FID method of gas chromatography (GC), the gas
35 chromatography-mass spectrometer (GC-MS) method, etc.

Further, by reacting such high purity 1,1,1,2-

tetrafluoroethane and fluorine gas in the presence of a diluting gas, pentafluoroethane and/or hexafluoroethane can be produced. According to the process for production of the present invention, the 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane
5 serving as the material for producing the pentafluoroethane and hexafluoroethane has an extremely small total content of chlorine-containing compounds contained as impurities, therefore high purity pentafluoroethane and hexafluoroethane can be produced.
10 For example, the pentafluoroethane can be given a purity of 99.9998 vol% or more.

Next, an explanation will be given of applications of the high purity pentafluoroethane and hexafluoroethane obtained by using the above production process. The high
15 purity pentafluoroethane may for example be mixed with an inert gas such as He, N₂, or Ar and a gas such as O₂ or NF₃ (hereinafter also referred to as a "pentafluoroethane product") and used as an etching gas in an etching step in a semiconductor device production process. Further,
20 the high purity hexafluoroethane can be used as a cleaning gas in a semiconductor device production process.

Below, the present invention will be further explained by examples and comparative examples, but the
25 present invention is not limited to these examples.

Example of Preparation of Crude 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane (Material Example 1)

Using trichloroethylene (CCl₂=CHCl) as the starting material, a two-step reaction was performed of reacting
30 this with hydrogen fluoride in the vapor phase in the presence of a chromium-based fluorination catalyst to mainly obtain an intermediate of CF₃CH₂Cl, introducing this into another reactor filled with the chromium-based fluorination catalyst, and further reacting this with
35 hydrogen fluoride. The crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane obtained after the crude purifying step was analyzed, whereupon it had the following composition:

	CF ₃ CH ₂ F	81.2080	CHCl=CHF	0.0020
	CF ₃ CH ₂ Cl	6.2400	CF ₃ CH ₃	0.5630
	CF ₃ CHF ₂	0.5320	CF ₃ CHClF	0.5310
	CHF ₂ CHF ₂	0.1600	CF ₃ CClF ₂	0.0540
5	CF ₂ =CHCl	0.6420	HF (hydro-	9.5060
	HCl (hydro-	0.5620	gen fluoride)	
	gen chloride)			

Unit: vol%

Example of Preparation of Crude Pentafluoroethane
(Material Example 2)

Using tetrachloroethylene (CCl₂=CCl₂) as the starting material, a two-step reaction was performed of reacting this with hydrogen fluoride in a vapor phase in the presence of a chromium-based catalyst to mainly obtain CF₃CHCl₂ and CF₃CHClF as the intermediates and introducing this into another reactor filled with a chromium-based fluorination catalyst to react this with the hydrogen fluoride. The crude pentafluoroethane obtained after the crude purifying step was analyzed, whereupon it had the following composition:

	CF ₃ CHF ₂	86.9712	CF ₃ CHClF	3.8204
	CF ₃ CHCl ₂	0.0051	CF ₃ CClF ₂	0.3121
	CF ₃ CH ₃	0.0161	CH ₂ F ₂	0.0121
	CF ₂ =CClF	0.0241	CF ₂ =CHF	0.0012
25	HF	8.3276	HCl	0.4820
	Other	0.0281		

Unit: vol%

Catalyst Preparation Example 1 (Catalyst Example 1)

0.6 liter of pure water was poured into a 10-liter vessel and stirred. A solution obtained by dissolving 452 g of Cr(NO₃)₃·9H₂O and 42 g of In(NO₃)₃·nH₂O (n is about 5) in 1.2 liter of pure water and 0.31 liter of 28% aqueous ammonia were dropped into the vessel over about 1 hour while controlling the flow rate of the two types of aqueous solutions so that the pH of the reaction solution became a range from 7.5 to 8.5. The obtained slurry was filtered, then the filtered solids were washed well by

pure water and dried at 120°C over 12 hours. The dried solid was crushed, then mixed with graphite, and processed by a tablet-making machine to prepare pellets. This pellets were calcined at 400°C for 4 hours under a flow of nitrogen gas to obtain a catalyst precursor. Next, the catalyst precursor was filled in an Inconel reactor where hydrogen fluoride was used for fluorination (activation of catalyst) at 350°C to thereby prepare the catalyst.

10 Catalyst Preparation Example 2 (Catalyst Example 2)
 191.5 g of chromium chloride ($\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$) was placed in 132 ml of pure water which was then heated to 70 to 80°C on a bath to dissolve the chromium chloride. The solution was cooled to room temperature, then 400 g of active alumina (NST-7 made by Nikki Universal Co. Ltd.) was dipped in it to make the alumina absorb the total amount of the catalytic solution. Then, the alumina wet by the catalytic solution was dried on a 90°C bath and dried to a solid. The solidified catalyst was dried at 110°C for 3 hours by an air circulation type hot air drier, the dry catalyst was filled in a vessel made by SUS, then the temperature was raised to 400°C under the circulation of air to prepare the catalyst precursor. The fluorination of the catalyst (activation of the catalyst) was performed by the same procedure and under the same conditions as in Catalyst Preparation Example 1 to prepare the catalyst.

 Catalyst Preparation Example 3 (Catalyst Example 3)
 The same procedure and operation as in Catalyst Preparation Example 2 were performed to prepare a catalyst except for adding 16.6 g of zinc chloride (ZnCl_2) into Catalyst Example 2 as the second ingredient.

 Comparative Example
 80 ml of the catalyst obtained in Catalyst Preparation Example 1 (Catalyst Example 1) was filled in an Inconel 600 type reactor having an inside diameter of

1 inch and a length of 1 m. The temperature in the reactor was held at 180°C in a flow of nitrogen gas, crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (Material Example 1) was introduced into the reactor, then the feed of nitrogen gas was stopped. Only the crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane was fed into the catalyst at 72 NL/hr. After the elapse of about 4 hours, the exhaust gas was stripped of the acid component by an aqueous alkali solution, then the gas composition was analyzed using a gas chromatograph. The gas had the following composition:

CF ₃ CH ₂ F	90.2993	CHCl=CHF	0.0003
CF ₃ CH ₂ Cl	7.6247	CF ₃ CH ₃	0.6260
CF ₃ CHF ₂	0.5916	CF ₃ CHClF	0.5904
CHF ₂ CHF ₂	0.1779	CF ₃ CClF ₂	0.0601
CF ₂ =CHCl	0.0278	CH ₂ ClCHF ₂	0.0019

Unit: vol%

As apparent from the above analysis results, the conversion rate of the unsaturated compounds in the 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane was about 95.8%, so it was proved that they could not be completely eliminated.

Next, the reaction was continued under the above conditions. After the elapse of 2400 hours, the composition of the exhaust gas was analyzed. As a result, it was confirmed that the content of CF₂=CHCl increased. The conversion rate of the unsaturated compounds was lowered to about 93%. The reaction was stopped at this point of time, the catalyst was extracted, and the surface was observed, whereupon deposition of carbon (black) on the catalyst surface was confirmed.

Example 1

An Inconel 600 type reactor having an inside diameter of 1 inch and a length of 1 m was filled with 80 ml of the catalyst obtained in Catalyst Preparation Example 1 (Catalyst Example 1) in the same way as the Comparative Example, the temperature in the reactor was held at 180°C while passing nitrogen gas, hydrogen fluoride was fed from the inlet of the reactor at 10

NL/hr, then crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (Material Example 1) was fed into the reactor at 72 NL/hr, then the feed of the nitrogen gas was stopped. After the elapse of 4 hours, the exhaust gas was stripped of the acid component by an aqueous alkali solution, then the gas composition was analyzed by a gas chromatograph. It had the following composition:

	CF ₃ CH ₂ F	90.2998	CHCl=CHF	<0.0001
	CF ₃ CH ₂ Cl	7.6524	CF ₃ CH ₃	0.6259
10	CF ₃ CHF ₂	0.5918	CF ₃ CHClF	0.5902
	CHF ₂ CHF ₂	0.1777	CF ₃ CClF ₂	0.0600
	CF ₂ =CHCl	<0.0001	CH ₂ ClCHF ₂	0.0020

Unit: vol%

As apparent from the analysis results, the conversion rate of the unsaturated compounds became about 99.9% by newly adding hydrogen fluoride to the crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

Next, the gas after being stripped of the acid component by the above aqueous alkali solution was collected while cooling a cylinder and distilled to cut the low boiling point fraction and cut the high boiling point fraction to obtain high purity 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane. The purity was analyzed by gas chromatography (TCD method or FID method) and a gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (GC-MS method). It had the following composition:

CF ₃ CH ₂ F	99.9956	CHF ₂ CHF ₂	0.0042
Chlorine-containing compounds			<0.0002

Unit: vol%

As apparent from the results, the chlorine-containing compounds were contained in the 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane in an amount of 2 volppm or less. If combined with the isomer 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane, the purity became about 99.999 vol% or more.

Further, when continuing the purifying reaction of the crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane under the same conditions and analyzing the composition of the exhaust

gas after the elapse of 2400 hours, no increase of $\text{CF}_2=\text{CHCl}$ as seen in the Comparative Example was confirmed. The conversion rate of the unsaturated compound was also maintained at about 99% or more.

5 When the reaction was stopped at this point of time in the same way as Comparative Example and the catalyst extracted and its surface observed, no deposition of carbon was confirmed. Thereafter, the catalyst was filled again in a reactor and the reaction continued for 2000
10 hours under the same conditions, but the conversion rate of the unsaturated compounds was maintained at about 99% or more.

Example 2

 Nitrogen gas was supplied through an Inconel 600
15 reactor (electric heater heating type: passivation by fluorine gas at temperature of 500°C finished) having an inside diameter of 20.6 mm and a length of 500 mm at 30 NL/hr, and the temperature was elevated to 280°C . Then, as the diluting gas, the hydrogen fluoride was supplied at
20 50 NL/hr. Further, the 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane obtained in Example 1 was supplied to one of the gas streams of the branched diluting gas at 1.8 NL/hr. Thereafter, fluorine gas was supplied to another gas stream of the diluting gas branched in the same way as the above at 2.7
25 NL/hr, and the reaction was carried out. After the elapse of 3 hours, the reaction gas was stripped of the hydrogen fluoride and the fluorine gas by an aqueous potassium hydroxide solution and an aqueous potassium iodide solution, then was analyzed for composition by a gas
30 chromatograph. The gas composition was as follows:

CF_4	0.4870	CF_3CF_3	49.6001
CF_3CHF_2	49.9126	$\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$	<0.0001
Chlorine-containing compounds <0.0002			

Unit: vol%

35 Next, the gas after being stripped of the hydrogen fluoride and fluorine gas was collected while cooling the cylinder and distilled to separate the CF_3CF_3 and CF_3CHF_2 .

Their low boiling point fractions and high boiling point fractions were cut, then the results were analyzed by a gas chromatograph and GC-MS. The purity of the CF_3CF_3 was 99.9999 vol% or more, and the purity of the CF_3CHF_2 was 99,9998 vol%, so high purity products could be acquired.

Example 3

An Inconel 600 type reactor having an inside diameter of 1 inch and a length of 1 m was filled with 80 ml of the catalyst obtained in Catalyst Preparation Example 2 (Catalyst Example 2). The temperature in the reactor was held at 180°C while supplying nitrogen gas, the hydrogen fluoride was fed from the inlet of the reactor at 10 NL/hr, the crude pentafluoroethane (Material Example 2) was fed into the reactor at 72 NL/hr, then the feed of the nitrogen gas was stopped. After the elapse of 4 hours, the exhaust gas was stripped of its acid component by an aqueous alkali solution and analyzed by using a gas chromatograph. It had the following composition:

20	CF_3CHF_2	95.3734	CF_3CHClF	4.2156
	CF_3CHCl_2	0.0056	CF_3CClF_2	0.3422
	CF_3CH_3	0.0176	CH_2F_2	0.0133
	$\text{CF}_2=\text{CClF}$	<0.0002	$\text{CF}_2=\text{CHF}$	<0.0001
	$\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{F}$	0.0012	Other	0.0308

25 Unit: vol%

As apparent from the above results, about 99% of the unsaturated compounds in the crude pentafluoroethane could be removed (converted).

Example 4

30 An Inconel 600 type reactor having an inside diameter of 1 inch and a length of 1 m was filled with 80 ml of the catalyst obtained in Catalyst Preparation Example 3 (Catalyst Example 3). The temperature in the reactor was held at 180°C while supplying nitrogen gas, hydrogen fluoride was fed from the inlet of the reactor at 10 NL/hr, then 36 NL/hr of the crude 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (Material Example 1) and the 36 NL/hr

of the crude pentafluoroethane (Material Example 2) were mixed at the inlet of the reactor and fed into the reactor. Thereafter, the feed of the nitrogen gas was stopped. After the elapse of 4 hours, the exhaust gas was
5 stripped of its acid component by an aqueous alkali solution, the gas composition was analyzed by a gas chromatograph. About 99% of the contained unsaturated compounds could be removed (converted).

Industrial Applicability

10 The present invention is useful for the production of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane and pentafluoroethane which can be advantageously utilized as a low temperature use refrigerant, an etching gas, and a cleaning gas.